- Hall Measure Will Direct Funds to the Hudson Valley, Save Taxpayers Money- Washington, DC - U.S. Rep. John Hall (D-NY19) helped the House pass a critical water quality bill last week to better ensure safe, clean water for Hudson Valley residents. The Water Quality Investment Act (H.R. 1262) included a Smart-Growth measure authored by Rep. John Hall to combat suburban sprawl while providing Hudson Valley communities with funding to upgrade dangerously out-of-date wastewater and sewer systems.

The Water Quality Investment Act could create 680,000 jobs over the next five years. It authorizes over $1.5 billion for New York's Clean Water Revolving Fund over the next five years. Hall's smart-growth measure prioritizes the repair of existing water and sewer systems over the creation of new systems for new developments and subdivisions. Through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, the Water Quality Investment Act will authorize $13.8 billion for low-interest loans and grants to local communities for the repair and improvement of the nation's antiquated wastewater infrastructure. Another $2.5 billion is specifically reserved for sewer overflow control grants. These funds could benefit Hudson Valley communities in particular because the region has many sewer systems built in the early 1900s which experience overflows during periods of heavy rain or high groundwater.

"Improving our existing communities' infrastructure rather than incentivizing sprawl makes economic sense, and it will help us to preserve the environment and natural beauty of the Hudson Valley," said Hall. "We can hold the line on property taxes by putting a lid on the demand for costly municipal services created by sprawl."

"This bill well help ensure that the Hudson Valley gets the wastewater infrastructure funding it desperately needs," said Hall. "We have $500 million in water and sewer system repairs to make in our communities and it is unfair to ask local property taxpayers to shoulder this burden during these tough economic times."

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